Albemarle County Electoral Board Meeting Minutes

October 8, 2026

Location: Albemarle County Office Building, 5th Street
Attendance: Jim Heilman, Valerie Dormady, Bucky Walsh, Jonell McFadden, Ryan Weathers, Andrea Tolk, Counselor Andrea Ruege, Cai Mallory (Facilities and Environmental Services -- FES)
Members of the Public who spoke: Doug Earle, Laurie Jones, Kent Schlussel, Ann Brubaker, Peyton Walz, Cheri Stephan, Rick Garnett

The meeting began at 2:00 pm.
The agenda was approved with modifications.

Board/Registrar Comments. Jim announced that he had several conversations with UVA Housing about proper addresses for on-grounds students and obtained a list of proper addresses which he is sharing with the University Precinct Chief Officer.

Public Comment.

- Kent discussed the new Early in Person Voting Manual and said that there were many favorable comments on it. He recognized the officers who worked on it: Kirby Hutto, Ann Brubaker, Liz Word-Glennie, Peyton Walz, and Cheri Stephan. Rick noted that this is very useful.
- Doug asked if the Board has been invited to the Board of Supervisors meeting on November 18 to discuss Ranked Choice Voting. Bucky said that we have not.
- Ann asked whether Social Security cards and Conceal/Carry permits are valid IDs. She was told that we would have to get back to her on that.
- Cheri noted that Early in Person (EIP) voters who say they are being harassed outside should be given a complaint form.
- Peyton asked whether it is still true that new registrants at EIP must wait 5 days before they can come back and vote. Jonell said the wait may be shorter than 5 days.
- Laurie said that there appears to be a new procedure in mail pre-processing. Jonell said that it had to do with ballot duplication but that they are going to stop using that procedure.

The minutes for August 25 and September 14 were approved.

Old Business.

- Cai from FES announced that they have designated five parking spaces as a campaign area. They will leave it to the Board to determine how that area may be used. Bucky said that we should have a policy concerning this. Discussion ensued, and several observers expressed concern about various things going on in the parking lot. Bucky later suggested that we may have to hold a special meeting to discuss what our policy should be.
- Election Office Accounting Report. Jonell presented several reports. She noted that the next report will reflect increased spending on ballot printing, part-time wages, and purchase of signage.

- Polling Place Signage. Ryan and Jonell discussed their current efforts at updating polling place signage. Ryan is meeting with Chief Officers to see what new signage is needed at their polling places. Discussion ensued. Bucky noted that signage noting the new prohibition of carrying weapons with 100 feet of the polling place need to be placed at a reasonable distance but don't need to be 100 feet away. More discussion ensued.

New Business.

- Jonell passed out an updated calendar for events/trainings leading up to the November General Election.
- Emergency Preparedness. Jonell announced that Johnny Switzer, the County's new Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, is planning a meeting on October 19 to discuss election day preparedness and that all relevant County departments will be involved.
- Jonell announced that about 2,900 marked mail ballots have been returned. She has added some pre-processing dates to handle these.
- Risk-Limiting Audit (RLA). Jonell announced that the State Board of Elections will have a drawing on November 16 to determine which Congressional District will be required to conduct an RLA. It will be conducted on November 19 and 20.
- Approval of Neutral Observers. It was decided that this will be left to the Registrar.
- Ballot Duplication and Hand-Counting. Bucky discussed how this new law/procedure will be done.
- Mail Ballot Return Envelopes that did not have postage on them. Jonell discussed this issue and what has been done to rectify it. The Office has sent new postage-paid return envelopes to 700 to 750 voters. She also noted that the USPS is delivering ballots back to us even if they do not have postage on the return envelope.
- Wage increase for election officers. Per our request at our last meeting, Jonell asked the County for this wage increase. The "County leadership" said no to the request. The Board decided to consider further steps at a meeting after the November election.

**Executive Session.** Bucky moved the following: I move that the Albemarle County Electoral Board convene a closed meeting pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A) of the Code of Virginia: Under subsection (1): to discuss and consider applications of prospective candidates as officers of election and assignment of Chief Officers, Assistant Chief Officers, and election officers to their precincts. The motion passed unanimously. The Board went into the closed meeting at 3:40 pm.

The Board came out of the closed meeting at 4:26 pm. (The Board, Andrea, Ryan, and Counselor Ruege participated in the meeting.) Bucky moved the following: RESOLVED, that the Electoral Board certify by recorded vote that, to the best of each member's knowledge, only public business matters lawfully exempted from the open meeting requirements of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and identified in the motion authorizing the closed meeting were heard, discussed, or considered in the closed meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Jim moved appointment of 22 new Officers of Election for terms of one year beginning March 1, 2026. The motion passed unanimously. Their names are appended to these minutes. Bucky moved approval of the list of Chief and Assistant Chief Officers as currently modified. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 4:27 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

James M. Heilman
Secretary, Albemarle County Electoral Board

## NEWLY APPOINTED ELECTION OFFICIALS

## ALBEMARLE COUNTY ELECTORAL BOARD

## October 8, 2026

1. Ashcom, Emily
2. Beckwith, Amanda L.
3. Bein, Myrna E.
4. Bishop, Suzanna
5. Bohofoush, Kathleen
6. Callahan, Lisa
7. Castle, Bryan
8. Chenoweth, Amy
9. Faerber, Linda
10. Grizzle, Jane
11. Hall, Seth C.
12. Hambsch, Nora Riley
13. Higgins, Mark J.
14. Higgins, Particia H.
15. Johnson, Richard
16. Kildea, Kathleen
17. Lee, Esther H.
18. Lewis, Bryan
19. Miksad, Richard Walter
20. Moniz, James K.
21. Morgan, Gretchen
22. Pisarczyk, Joellen